

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 04265 171849 Z

63

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TAGS V ALLOW, AFSP, EAGR, PFOR

SUBJ: ALLOWANCES: RETAIL PRICE SCHEDULE: SIXTY PERCENT INCREASE
IN LOCAL MEAT PRICES TO DIPLOMATS

REF: MOSCOW RETAIL PRICE SCHEDULE DATED MARCH 1973

1. EFFECTIVE APRIL 16, SOVIET HARD- CURRENCY GASTRONOME, WHICH CATERS PRIMARILY TO FOREIGN DIPLOMATS AND IS OUTLET MOST FREQUENTLY USED BY AMERICAN EMBASSY PERSONNEL, CORRESPONDENTS AND BUSINESSMEN, RAISED PRICES OF MOST POPULAR CUTS OF MEAT BY SIXTY PERCENT; OTHER CUTS BY SOMEWHAT SMALLER PERCENTAGES.
 2. SINCE NEW POST DIFFERENTIAL ALLOWANCES HAS NOT YET BEEN ESTABLISHED BASED ON MARCH 1973 RETAIL PRICE SCHEDULE, AND IN VIEW OF THE SIZE OF THIS INCREASE AND THE IMPORTANCE OF MEAT AS A MAJOR COST- OF- LIVING ITEM, IT IS REQUESTED THAT THESE NEW PRICES BE SUBSTITUTED FOR THOSE REPORTED ON PAGE 2 OF REFERENCE IN COMPUTING NEW COST- OF- LIVING INDEXES FOR USSR. OTHERWISE, INDEXES WILL SERIOUSLY UNDERRATE ACTUAL LIVING COSTS FOR COMING YEAR.
 3. NEW PRICES FOR MEAT ITEMS REPORTED ON PAGE 2 OF REFERENCE FOLLOW, TOGETHER WITH OLD PRICES, BY WAY OF COMPARISON. PRICES ARE EXPRESSED IN RUBLES; PAYMENT IS POSSIBLE ONLY IN COUPONS DENOMINATED IN RUBLES BUT PURCHASED FOR HARD CURRENCY FROM SOVIET BANK FOR FOREIGN TRADE.
MEAT ITEM WEIGHT NEW PRICE OLD PRICE
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 04265 171849 Z

LANGUETTE 125 G. R. 0.40 R. 0.26
ENTRECOTE 125 G. EOUS REPATRIATION OF THE PAKISTANI PRISONERS OF
WAR AND
CIVILIAN INTERNEES, EXCEPT THOSE REQUIRED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH FOR TRIAL ON CRIMINAL CHARGES,
THE REPATRIATION OF BENGALLEES FORCIBLY DETAINED IN PAKISTAN AND
THE REPATRIATION OF PAKISTANIS IN BANGLADESH." THEY EXPRESS
HOPE PAKISTAN WILL RESPOND TO THIS " CONSTRUCTIVE INITIATIVE."

2. MEANWHILE, BANGLADESH FOMIN KAMAL HOSSAIN IS REPORTED
BY INDIAN WIRE SERVICES AS SAYING IN CALCUTTA THAT " THE WORK ON THE
TRIAL OF POW'S IS IN AN ADVANCED STAGE." WHEN ASKED HOW MANY WOULD
BE TRIED, HE REPORTEDLY SAID: " THIS WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN DUE
COURSE. IT IS A QUESTION OF INVESTIGATION AND PROCEDURE."
BANGLADESH WOULD INVITE INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS TO ATTEND THE
TRIALS, HE ADDED. (AFTER RETURNING TO DACCA, KAMAL
HOSSAIN REISRTEDLY TOLD PRESS 195 WOULD BE TRIED.

3. COMMENT: INDIA AND BANGLADESH NEGOTIATED FOR OVER TWO
WEEKS BEFORE PRODUCING THIS DECLARATION. INDIA APPARENTLY PER-
SUADED BANGLADESH TO DEAL WITH THE HUMANITARIAN ISSUES WITHOUT
INVOLVING THE RECOGNITION QUESTION. BUT INDIA WANTED A STRAIGHT
EXCHANGE OF THE PRISONERS OF WAR FOR THE BENGALLEES. BANGLADESH
APPARENTLY INSISTED ON INCLUSION OF THE APPROXIMATELY 250,000
BIHARIS, WHO ALLEGEDLY WISH TO RETURN TO PAKISTAN, IN THE
PACKAGE. (INDIAN OFFICIALS AND JOURNALISTS SEEM TO HAVE
FOCUSED ONLY RECENTLY ON MUJIB'S MARCH 29 LETTER TO THE UN
SECRETARY- GENERAL, WHICH INDICATED MUJIB WAS THINKING ALONG
THESE LINES.) WE WILL PROVIDE FURTHER ANALYSIS TOMORROW.
MOYNIHAN

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